

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic processing device for producing digitally processed audio-signal effects comprising:

5           an audio-signal input circuitry for receiving an audio input signal from a peripheral audio device;

          an audio-signal output circuitry for outputting the received audio-signal, the signal comprising a throughput signal after signal processing;

10           a digital signal processor for applying audio-signal effects to the throughput audio-signal;

          one or more memory slots for receiving one or more modular memory components; and

15           an input control mechanism for controlling parameters of the throughput audio signal, characterized in that the one or more modular memory components are used as storage for externally sourced audio-signal effects applications such that when the one or more memory components are plugged into the electronic processing device, the processing device may utilize the effects applications stored on the one or more memory components in the processing of the throughput audio signal.

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2. The device of claim 1, wherein the external source for audio-signal effects is hosted on a network to which the electronic processing device may interface.

25   3. The device of claim 2, wherein the network is the Internet network.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the peripheral audio source device is a musical instrument.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the one or more modular memory components are programmable memory cards.

10 8. The device of claim 1, wherein the effects applications are software plug-ins configured for use on the appliance.

an input-controlled communication and display circuitry for enabling data-communication between the electronic processing device and a data source connected to the network and display of results of the communication; and

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11. The device of claim 9, wherein the communication circuitry includes a



17. The hardware-software system of claim 15, wherein the network-capable processor is an internal processor running on the electronic processing device.

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18. The hardware-software system of claim 16, wherein the network connection is achieved through wireless Internet-access technology.

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19. The hardware-software system of claim 16, wherein the network connection is achieved through wired Internet-access technology.

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20. A hardware-software system for requesting and receiving audio-effects applications sourced on a data-packet-network for use in an electronic processing device for producing digitally processed audio-signal effects comprising:

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a data-storage repository connected to the network, the repository for storing the audio-effects applications;

a data server connected to the network and having access to the data repository, the data server for serving the audio-effects applications; and

an Internet-host computer connected to the network and having connection to the electronic processing device, the computer hosting network-connectivity on behalf of the electronic processing device; wherein a user operating the electronic processing device may connect to the host computer and retrieve audio-effects applications stored thereon, the audio-effects applications having been downloaded from the data-storage repository by virtue of network connection between the host computer and the data server.

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27. The hardware-software system of claim 25, wherein the memory dock is

cabled to the host computer as a peripheral device.

28. The hardware-software system of claim 25, wherein the memory card is a flash-memory card.

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29. The hardware-software system of claim 25, wherein the audio-effects applications are software plug-ins utilized on the electronic processing device.

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30. The hardware-software system of claim 29, wherein the plug-ins are downloadable from memory drives built-in to the host computer.

31. The hardware-software system of claim 30, wherein the memory drives are one of a hard disk drive, a floppy drive, a zip drive, or a CD-ROM.

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32. A method for acquiring external audio-effects applications hosted on a data-packet-network for use in an electronic processing device, the device for producing digitally processed audio-effects signals comprising the steps of:

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(a) initiating network connection to the network hosting the audio-effects applications;

(b) navigating to the network source responsible for serving the audio-effects applications;

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(c) requesting download of specific ones of the audio-effects applications available at the network source;

(d) downloading the specified ones of the audio-effects applications to a memory storage; and

(e) utilizing specified ones of the audio-effects applications on the

electronic processing device.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the data-packet-network is the Internet network.

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34. The method of claim 32 wherein in step (a), the network connection is initiated by a host computer.

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35. The method of claim 32 wherein in step (a), the network connection is initiated by the electronic processing device.

36. The method of claim 32 wherein in step (b), the network source is a data server and navigation is performed by virtue of a browser application.

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37. The method of claim 32 wherein in step (d), the memory storage is a modular memory card.

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38. The method of claim 37 wherein in step (d), the memory card is docked as a peripheral device to the host computer, the computer downloading the audio-effects applications.

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39. The method of claim 38 wherein in step (e), the downloaded audio-effects applications are utilized by removing the memory card docked at the host computer after download, and inserting it into a memory slot provided in the electronic processing device.

40. The method of claim 32 wherein steps (a)-(e) are practiced from the electronic processing device.